

DRAFT
RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES - NOVEMBER 10, 2020

11/10/2020 - Minutes

1. Declaration Of A Quorum And Call Meeting To Order
Paul Sivon declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present (via videoconference): Board Members Paul Sivon, Cody Wright, Susan Syler, and Dorothy Trevino; Cindy DeWitt, Director of Administration and Sanitation; and Janelle Williams, City Secretary.

Absent: Board Members Joanie Steinhaus, Stephanie Vasut, and Matt Havard.

3. Consider For Approval Minutes Of The October 27, 2020 Meeting
Dorothy Trevino made a motion to approve Minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting, seconded by Susan Syler. Unanimously approved by those present.

4. Public Comments (Limited To Three Minutes Each)
None.

5. Report From Staff; Responses To Questions From Oct 27, Meeting

1. How much garbage is collected from the beaches? Does it all go to the landfill? the city pays? Improve the recycling bins on the beaches? Perhaps, if we could redirect those cans and bottles, we might save more on landfill costs. **The committee requested a presentation from the Park Board. City Secretary Janelle Williams will contact the Park Board on their availability.**

2. What is the city's vision on recycling, the city's sense of potential? **The City's vision and goals at the recycling center were provided in writing to the committee prior to the meeting.**

3. City is understandable focused on process and finances, but why is it important to provide this service to Galvestonians? **This information was included in the recycling center goals materials provided to the committee prior to the meeting. Cindy Dewitt provided a brief overview of the PowerPoint presentation. The committee was satisfied with this information.**

4. Communicate and discuss the impact of constraints; such as limitations on using contractors, and if beneficial, how to remove those constraints. **The committee discussed constraints in the City Charter that do not allow the use of contractors for trash collection. It is not beneficial to hire a contractor for just the recycling portion.**

5. Have more detailed discussion regarding the recycling process, including the role and issues with a transfer station and vendor capabilities. **The committee will discuss this item at a later date.**

Cindy Dewitt explained to the committee that Keeping it Green pays a permit fee under Chapter 15 of the City Code. No additional charges are incurred for use of the recycling center.

6. Committee Charter – Further Definition, Clarification, And Discussion

- a. Explicit Roles and Goals
- b. Implied Goals and Roles
- c. Requests of Clarifications (if any)

Cindy Dewitt discussed with the committee Chapter 15 - Garbage and Trash of the City Code and the ordinance approved by City Council in 2015 that created the recycling fee and separated recycling from the Drainage section of the Code. No specific goals were detailed in the

ordinance. The City Council resolution creating the committee did not include a specific charter, so the committee will work on building their own charter over the next few meetings or get some feedback from Council.

The committee discussed ideas for coming up with achievable goals, including increased participation in the recycling program, diverting from the transfer station, creating a pilot program, and working towards becoming a zero waste community. The City could implement a program similar to the Port of Galveston's new 'Going Green Marine' program. Cindy Dewitt suggested that the committee could assist staff with a public education and awareness program. The committee would like to know how much trash is handled by the City and how much trash is handled through the recycling center. The committee members will send their individual goals to Joanie and she will compile and bring to the group.

7. Goals For Recycling

- a. Historical background; goals and expectations associated with the original funding
- b. Discussion of Committee members views of goals and expectation for Galveston's Recycling Program
- c. Brief discussion of the Draft National Recycling Strategy and relevance to Galveston:
<https://www.epa.gov/americanrecycles/us-national-recycling-goals>

Cindy Dewitt reported that goals and expectations were not included with the original funding. She advised the City Code does not address specific expectations of recycling. The Draft National Recycling Strategy would be a good reference for the committee.

8. Establishing A Reference Case Baseline

- a. Discussion of methods and metrics needed and available to define and describe the measures of success, impact, and cost of the current Recycling Program
- b. Discuss the current recycling program alignment relative to the initial funding expectations

Paul Sivon discussed with the committee methods and metrics needed to define the measures of success, impact, and cost of the current recycling program. Paul will put together a sample for the next meeting.

9. General Discussion Of Process (Brief Straw-Man Process Is Below)

- a. Definition and Clarification of the Committee Charter
- b. Develop an understanding of the status, expectations, constraints, value and impact of the current recycling process
- c. Identify goals not captured in the Charter; seek approval for inclusion
- d. Define the Committee's view of recycling value and success; including measures
- e. Identify and discuss impacts of trends in recycling and possible responses
- f. Identify opportunities to achieve success; including estimates of cost and impact (Examples: improved education, reduced costs, integrated waste reduction, improved cost/unit waste recycled or reduced, discontinuation of low value activities, enhancement of high value activities)
- g. Develop a means of defining and communication value of changes to the Reference Case. Consider Matrix approach.
- h. Develop recommendation to Council with support information
- i. Compile and communicate a Report

Paul Sivon discussed with the board a brief straw-man process.

10. Request Agenda Items For Future Meetings

Agenda items for future meetings: (1) zeroing in on goals; and (2) asking the Park Board for a brief accounting of their recycling program including recycled volumes, trash volumes, and their overall recycling program.

11. Schedule Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on November 24, 2020.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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